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*"The most livable of Nevada cities; the focus of culture, commerce and tourism in Northern Nevada."*

April 17, 2006

Ward 2 Resident

If the old adage "April showers bring May flowers" is true - we should be up to our eyeballs in flowers by next month.

A special ***Thursday Night Live*** was held on February 16 and focused on information regarding Regional Centers and the Transit Oriented Development ("TOD") Corridors. The program was well attended and a lively discussion brought up some excellent ideas.

I would like to thank everyone who came down to City Hall or called in for the show. It was a worthwhile evening.

Citizen concerns have been brought to my attention regarding traffic flow and the opening of the new Summit Sierra Mall in South Reno. I have learned from the developer that the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Herz and the Mt. Rose Highway to accommodate the increased traffic will begin on March 1 and the signal will be activated on March 15. The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has jurisdiction over this roadway and project developers had to wait for its approval prior to the installation of this signal.

In response to the New Year's Eve flood and as noted at last month's Central Neighborhood Advisory Board meeting, the City of Reno along with the City of Sparks, Washoe County and other entities are conducting a flood impact study to determine future preventative measures. In addition, Federal and State agencies have been activated to review flood assistance requests. The US Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest loans to homeowners, renters and non-farm businesses who suffered damages during the New Year's storms. The SBA has opened a local office at 745 West Moana Lane, Suite 375. Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This temporary office will be open through Saturday, March 4, 2006. The filing deadline for property damage is April 11, 2006 and the deadline for economic injury is November 13, 2006. You can call the SBA at (800) 659-2955 or visit them online at [www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html) for more information.

The Homeowners Disaster Assistance Program (HDAP) has been charged by the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management with the administration of the \$5 million disaster assistance grant. To be eligible for assistance, applicants must be the homeowner and must occupy the house involved. Homeowners also must submit an insurance claim and apply for a low-interest SBA loan. If these two avenues of assistance are unsuccessful, HDAP will review the request. The assistance covers damage to the structure of the house and does not cover damage to outbuildings, spas, pools, landscaping, decks, appliances or other personal property.

In accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Individual Assistance Program, the maximum amount of assistance a homeowner can apply for is \$5,400. Application form DEM FORM LOI 2/2006 can be downloaded at [www.dem.state.nv.us/](http://www.dem.state.nv.us/).

A new pedestrian crossing light has been installed on South Meadows Parkway. This new light has solar powered LEDs that outline a pedestrian crossing sign. Pedestrians can push the signal button to activate the flashing warning light before their crossing.

At the February 8 meeting, City Council appointed a sub-committee to explore the potential of narrowing North Virginia Street. The sub-committee members are Mayor Bob Cashell, Council member at Large Pierre Hascheff and Ward 1 Council member Dan Gustin. This sub-committee will report back to City Council with their findings.

Our skating season will end on Sunday, February 26. The first year for our new permanent skating rink was a resounding success. While operation hours for the rink were modified in response to some unseasonably warm weather, attendance was more than 10,000 over the 2003-2004 season. It was wonderful to see children learning to skate and older "children-at-heart" testing their skills. I look forward to next year's rink opening and another season of winter fun.

The Spring Clean and Green event kicks off on April 1, 2006. Due to its popularity, City Council directed staff to expand this event to four Saturdays during the month of April. While the dates have been assigned to specific Wards, any Reno citizen can take their residential trash to any of the dump locations on its specified day. Ward 2 has two sites for use on Saturday, April 8. The rear parking lot at Fire Station #8 on Moana Lane and Double Diamond Elementary School will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for dumping. In addition, there is always a need for volunteers to help clean up "hot spots" in our community. This event is a great way to work with your friends to spruce up our neighborhoods. Please look for a dump voucher in your water bill.

The Council came back from a successful retreat in early February. City Council identified ***Communications, Public Safety, Redevelopment, Planning and Inter-Government Cooperation*** as this year's priorities. I strongly urged Council to include planning as a priority and they agreed. With our community growing as it is, I felt it important we keep our residents updated on city planning and projects.

I am extremely concerned that the interstate traveled by citizens and visitors on a daily basis is becoming covered in graffiti. Because of the lack of graffiti removal efforts by NDOT on their highway sound walls and on and off ramps I brought my concerns before the Council at our February 8 meeting and offered a possible solution. At that meeting I suggested the City and other local governmental agencies request that NDOT transfer to us funds it recovers from fines charged contractors when road construction exceeds the agreed upon deadline. These fines range from \$3,000 to \$15,000 per day, depending on the project and its location. Our local governments can clean the State's sound walls if we receive this "unbudgeted" and therefore available revenue from the State. At the February 22 meeting, City Council directed staff to examine the possibility of a change in city code to require anti-graffiti materials on all NDOT sound walls and other structures.

Washoe County is holding a public meeting on Saturday, March 18 to discuss graffiti issues. The meeting will be held at the Reno Livestock Events Center at 1350 North Wells Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. I would encourage anyone interested to attend.

Our community is waging a war against graffiti and needs the cooperation of all governmental agencies. Working together, we can make a big difference in the appearance of our highways and neighborhoods by eradicating graffiti.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Ward 2 Neighborhood Advisory Board meetings. As a reminder, the Ward 2 Central NAB March 2 meeting will be held at the Convention Center at 4590 South Virginia Street, Rooms A4-5. The parking fee has been waived for this meeting.

Sincerely,

Sharon Zadra  
Council Member  
City of Reno, Ward 2

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